No. 14,030.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1898-FOURTEEN PAGES.

TWO CENTS.

# ORDERED

Naval Board Appointed to Investigate the Maine Disaster.

PROMINENT OFFICERS NAMED

They Will Convene at Scene of Wreck in a Few Days.

THEORIES ABOUT THE ACCIDENT

Captain Bradford Says Maine's Coal Was of Good Quality.

TRYING TO REACH SIGSBEE

The Navy Department received a dispatch this morning from Admiral Steard, in command of the North Atlantic squadron, giving the detail of the court of inquiry to in vestigate the Maine disaster, as fellows Capt. Sampson, president of the court; Capt. Chadwick, Lieut. Commander Schroeder, Lieut. Commander Marix.

Capt. Sampson, the president of the court, is commander of the battle ship lowa, now at the Tortugas; Capt. Chadwick is commander of the New York, at Key West; Lieut. Commander Schroeder is executive officer of the battle ship Massachusetts, now at the Tortugas; Lieut. Commander Marix is executive officer of the Vermont. He was formerly with the Maine as executive officer before the detail of Lieut. Commander Wainwright, who

## Will Take Several Days.

It is believed that under the most favorable circumstances this investigation cannot be made for several days. Arrangements must be made for the proper working of the diving outfits and the board of inquiry must determine upon a line of action. Besides, Lieut. Commander Marix, who will be a member of the court of inquiry, has just been released from duty Billings court-martial in this city. He left Washington at 11 o'clock today by train for Key West, and he is supposed to be assigned to duty as judge advocate of the court. Probably the board will be conveyed from Havana to Key West by the Olivette or one of the light house tenders, as it is again stated today that the Navy Department has no intention of sending another man-of-war to Havana immediately.

General fear is expressed by the older officers of the Navy Department that the destruction of the Maine had been so complete, at least in the forward portion of the ship, where the explosion is believed to have occurred, that it would be perhaps impossible to find sufficient evidence in the wreck of the hull to be able to declare with certainty the cause of the disaster. The reports coming from Havana and printed this morning descriptive of the occurrence of the wreck yesterday strengthen these doubts.

The fallen smokestack, the disappear ance of the big turret guns, the overturning of the decks forward, all seem to indicate that an enormous destruction has occurred below.

# Sunk by Internal Explosion.

It may be said, however, that nothing has yet developed in the news from Hatana as to the appearance of the wreck or in the conflicting stories of the survivors to change the opinion of the majurity of the officers stationed in the Navy Department that the Maine sunk as the result of an internal explosion. As to the origin of this explosion there is still a wide difference of opinion, but the coul bunker theory today finds very many more strong supporters than any other theory. This theory is based on the supposition that spontaneous combustion in one of the bunkers, which in the Maine are separated from the magazine forward by a single thin iron partition, ignited the magazine and caused the destruction of the vessel. Proofs of similar fires on other vessels of the navy are being produced in profusion at the Navy Department today.

It is said that on the battle ship Indiana no less than seven fires have occurred in the coal bunkers. The Philadelphia has had at least one within the past year, while in the case of the flagship of the north Atlantic squadron, the New York, the department was obliged to order the discontinuance of the use of the magazine in the center of the ship because of danger from this cause and because it was subject to a high degree of heat by radiation from the furraces.

Character of Coal Supplied. In connection with the theory of sponlaneous combustion the character of the coal supplied to the Indiana assumed some importance. This is supplied at present to bureau of equipment, and the head of that bureau, Captain Royal Bradford, this merning asserted positively that coal was of the very best. He produced the quarterly report required by regulations to show exactly the state of the Maine's coal supply and the quality of the coal. At the end December the vessel had fifty-two tons of coal only in her bunkers. This was made up of Focahontas and New River coal. Captain Bradford said that Pocahontas is a standard naval coal and is rated at 100. New River follows next and is set down at 30 per cent. These are semi-bituminous coals of a quality closely approaching that of the celebrated Welsh navigation coal, the

British naval standard. In the opinion of Captain Bradford, neither of these coals is particularly subject to spontaneous combustion. Since the Maine has been in the Gulf of Mexico, however, she probably has consumed a good part of this coal and has replenished her stock from the naval store at the Key West





CAPTAIN SIGSBEE IN HIS STATE ROOM,

From a Photograph Taken on Board the Maine,

thracite, which, said Captain Bradford, "is partment today that the men named are no more subject to spontaneous combus still aboard the Detroit. tion than a pile of stones.

'The Maine took on 280 tons of this coal in December, and in January, before she left for Havana, she leaded up with 271 tons more. This coal at Key West is kept behind a picket fence, very much exposed to any evil-minded person who might desire to conceal a bomb therein, something which could only be effected with great difficulty after the coal was stored in the

In spite of the British reflections upon the discipline on American warships, the officers here do not hesitate to say tha in the matter of careful inspection of the ceal bunkers, the magazines and the like, our navy is second to none in the world. But these obscure fires arising from spontaneous combustion are very difficult of detection. Such fires have been known to smolder undiscovered in piles of coal a the Washington navy yard here for many days before breaking out, and this, too. visited almost daily. Aboard ship the taking of the temperature of the magazine daily is one of the precautions to guard against such fires.

Custom on the Maine. In the case of the Maine this observa tion was usually taken at 9 o'clock in the morning, so that it was entirely possible for a bunker fire to have developed suffl cient heat during the twelve hours tha elapsed before the explosion to have ignited the ammunition. While the Brown powder used for the 10-inch guns is difficult to ignite without a detonator, still the applica tion of heat in excess of 600 degrees for some time will cause the explosion which the application of a match would fail to bring about.

Trying to Reach Mgsbee.

Secretary Long is making repeated ef forts to obtain from Captain Sigsbee more accurate data respecting the dead and expression of its grief and claims the sad graphed. Half a dozen messages have been sent to the captain on this subject, but nothing on the subject has yet been received from him by the Navy Department, nor had it been able to hear from Key West, owing to the unfavorable weather conditions, and the wires in the south are said to be in trouble, which the naval officials think is the reason for the delay in receiving further advices, though the probable exhaustion of Captain Sigsbee and his officers after yesterday's work may also offer some explanation.

# Board Has Ample Authority.

Admiral Sicard's board has ample authority to make the most searching investigation into the causes of the disaster. The Fern and the Mangrove reported arrival at Hayana last evening. The former is provided with diving apparatus, and as every warship company includes at least several expert divers there will be no lack of men to make the necessary search. These men can be depended upon to report the exact facts. They, moreover, will be subject to orders of the court of inquiry in every particular, and as they are familiar with the bottom of a warship of the type of the Maine they are not likely to be led into the mistake of supposing the outlet hole or pipe from the interior to be a torpedo hole.

#### Flags Ordered at Half-Mast. The adjutant general of the army today

telegraphed the commanding generals of all

the military departments as follows: "As appropriate honors to the deceased in the recent disaster to the battleship Three Washingtonians for Whom Maine, the President directs that flags at all army headquarters, military posts and on army buildings be displayed from sunrise to sunset at half mast until further orders.

# Divers Offer Their Services.

A number of telegrams have been re ceived at the Navy Department from persons engaging in the diving business, offering their services in the effort to recover the valuables that are in the sunken ship and to assist in ascertaining the causes which led to the explosion, Secretary Long had, however, already taken the initiative in the matter, and is in correspondence with several wrecking companies, inviting propositions from them to undertake the work. It is not likely, however, that any of the offers will be accepted until some report is received from Admiral Sicard, transmitting the report of the board of inquiry which he has appointed to determine the exact situation respecting the possi bility of saving any portion of the vessel. When the cruiser Detroit sailed for the

south February 5 she carried a few men destined for the Maine. The names of these men are: W. R. Hines, first-class apprentice; Eppa Lovett, seaman; E. J. Noble, third class gunner's mate, and Geo. T. Starr, seaman. The commanding officer

## BLANCO EXPRESSES REGRET. Alcalde of Havana Joins in Condol-

ence on Maine Disaster. Captain General Blanco today cabled to Senor Du Bosc, charge of the Spanish legation, giving the formal action of the insular government of Cuba expressing to the President of the United States profound sorrow over the catastrophe to the Maine and the resulting loss of life to plosives, says: Americans. At the same time the alcalde, or mayor of Havana, sent resolutions of the municipality expressing to the Presicent the grief of the authorities and the people of Havana. Senor Du Bosc presented the dispatches to Assistant Secretary Day, who laid them before President McKinley

General Blanco's dispatch was as fol

"At today's session of the insular govolved to express through your excellency a respectful and feeling manifestation of condolence to the President of the United States for the terrible catastrophe which resulted in the destruction of the cruises Maine, causing the death of a large number of citizens and sailors of that nation. In accordance with this resolution, I re quest your excellency to pray the President of the United States to accept the condolence which I send, deploring as I do that this hospitable port should witness such a great misfortune for the American

"(Signed.) BLANCO." The dispatch from the alcalde was as fol-

CWS: "The municipality has passed the follow-

ing resolution: "The catastrophe to the Maine has found sad echo in every heart. The city of Havana offers to the American people the privilege of caring for the wounded and giving burial to the dead. The municipality requests you to express to the President of the United States the grief which is

felt through the city of Havana. "(Signed.) MARQUIS ESTEBAR.

"Alcalde of Havana." The foregoing is all the information reeived at the Spanish legation up to noon. Senor Du Bose has heard nothing in regard to the Madrid cable relative to the Viscaya. It was expected that this battle ship would arrive in New York today or tomorrow and would remain two or three days before proceeding to Havana.

The legation is also without information concerning the reported note of Spain closing the De Lome incident.

#### WILL NOT REPLACE THE MAINE. Secretary Long So Advised by Both

Lee and Sigsbee. Secretary Long said today about 11 e'cleck that he had not ordered another warship to Havana, and had no intention of doing so at present. "Both Consul General Lee and Capt. Sigsbee," said he, "advised against sending a warship there, and I see no reason for acting against their advice. We already have a number of smail vessels in the harbor of Havana, and no more are needed so far as I can perceive. It may be deemed advisable to replace the Maine in that port in the course of time, but I see no reason for doing so at the present time."

# FEARS WERE NEEDLESS.

There Was Apprehension

The Navy Department has been besieged with inquiries today by the relatives and friends of those sailors and marines supposed to have been stationed on the wrecked battle ship Maine. Among the complement of men assigned to the Maine are several Washingtonians, and it is to these that most of the inquiries refer.

William L. Gartrell, formerly of 1238 8th street northwest, was reported among the missing, but his brother, Mr. G. M. Gartrell, living at 126 G street, this morning received a telegram from him, dated Key West, stating "I am saved." Mr. Gartrel was a fireman on the Maine. He has been a seaman in the navy about six years.

At the home of Mr. Joseph B. Much 1018 7th street southeast, all was apprehension, as he was supposed to have been one of the crew of the sunken ship. His mother, who is a widow, had not up to a late hour heard anything from him. He belonged on the Texas, but wrote his mother early in February that he expected to be transferred to the Maine. A press dispatch to The Star says that the man

vas not transferred to the Maine. Charles H. Newton is another Washing tenian who was on the Texas, and whose friends feared he had been transferred to station. The coal t' - taken on was an of the Detroit telegraphed the Navy De- the Maine. His family, living at 504 7th assistant secretary of state, ran in for

street southeast, heard nothing from him today, and were greatly worried.

As fast as the news is received at the Navy Department affecting the members of the crew, who were residents of Washirgton or whose families reside here, those interested are immediately notified.

#### MR. MITCHELL'S THEORY.

Some One Planted a Torpedo Near the

Maine Early in the Evening. Representative Murray Mitchell of New Yerk, who was one of the President's visitors today, has an interesting theory of the Maine catastrophe. He says that indications point to the Maine having been wrecked by a terpedo from underneath. "This torpedo," said Representative Mitchell to a Star reporter, "could have been dropped a good while before the explosion by any person sailing along in an insignificant craft, even a lugger. The passing of the craft at 7 or 8 o'clock would not have excited even notice. The persons in the vessel, handling the torpedo, would have found it easy to calculate the direction in which the Maine would swing, and the distance from their knowledge of the tides and winds. Any man with a knowledge of the sea and the tides could even locate the anchor of the Maine from the movement of the vessel. The torpedo could have been dropped overboard, with an anchor attached, after this calculation. In the course of time the Maine would swing around in the direction calculated upon, the torpedo would be touched and the explosion follow. Of course the torpedo would ficat above the anchor to which it was attached and near enough to the surface to be touched by the Maine."

#### SUGGESTION TO SICARD. Secretary Long Names List of Officers

to Investigate Disaster.

The Secretary of the Navy today tale graphed to Admiral Sieard, commanding the North Atlantic fleet, suggesting the appointment of the following-named offimost of the dead are more or less man-

Inventor of High Power Guns Says
It Was a Torpedo. Dr. W. W. Hubbell, the inventor of the high-power steel guns, and an expert in ex-

"Considering the facts-that it was in the night time; that the crew and officers had retired; that the explosion occurred nearest the bow of the vessel; that she sank from the explosive effects; that gun cotton was stored near by or over the place of rupture and of explosion-placing all these facts together, it appears to me that a submarine torpedo was exploded under the fore part of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor and that the concussion upward exploded ethment under my presidency it was re- the gun cotton, the two together destroying the vessel and the sleeping crew."

# EVIDENCE OF A TORPEDO.

#### Rumor From Key West Discredited at Navy Department.

A rumor from Key West this morning says: The divers who have been working about the bottom of the Maine's wreck have discovered an eight-inch percussion hole in a plate.

Admiral Manterola has summoned Capain Sigsbee to appear before Military Judge Peral to make the necessary deposi tions. All proofs of the torpedo work wil be removed

Another man-of-war is expected here to night.

President McKinley's attention was called to the Key West rumor early this morning, having been sent to him by The Star. The President read the dispatch with deep interest, and said that it was the first news of that kind he had received.

Of course, he had nothing else to say. With him at the time was Senator Quay of Pennsylvania. Senator Burrows visited the President on business. When he heard of the telegram he said that while it might be of great importance, the Spanish government would have to be proven to be connected in some way with the explosion before any action could be taken by this country. "If I

should go over to England," said Senator Burrows, "and kill Queen Victoria or blow up the House of Parliament the United States government could not be accused of committing the crime." Discredited at Navy Department. The Navy Department absolutely dis-

credits the story coming from Key West

that divers have found an eight-inch percussion hole in the bottom of the Maine Secretary Long says that there is no such thing as a percussion hole; that there is no eight-inch torpedo, and there is no other way in which such a hole could be accounted for. It is, of course, possible that a sheli exploding inside of the ship pierced c hole of that kind in the outer skin, but that would be readily revealed by the character of the angle, and whether or not the skin was bulged in or out around the puncture. It is more likely if there is any hole at all of the kind that it is sim ply the outlet of one of the numerou pleces from the inside of the Maine.

Secretary Long positively denies that Capt. Sigsbee has in any suppressed telegram expressed the opinion that a torpedo caused the disaster, or that it came from an external cause. The captain said, on the contrary, that he could not venture to express an opinion.

# AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

A Different Atmosphere From That of The air of suppressed excitement at the White House yesterday was not observable today. No official news was apparently received by the President for hours after he went to his office, and none was given out, as was the case yesterday, when the informal cabinet session was in pro-House in about a fortnight. gress, and when Secretary Long was receiving dispatches from Havana.

The President went to his office before 10 o'clock, but there was no hurried passing, backward or forward, of messengers bear-ing telegrams. The steady tramp of the congressman and his office-seeking con-stituent was all that was heard. The old game of office-hunting was again resumed. The Maine disaster has not yet become an "incident," but business has to go on. Men have to fill offices, and others have to get these places for them. The President has to listen to these men and keep this part of the government moving, as well as others. Vereinigte Carolinenglueck colliery at

others. Secretary Long had not visited the White Heuse up to a late hour in the afternoon.

Pestmaster General Gary was the only cabinet official to see the President, and he talked on department business. Judge Day,

few minutes, but had nothing to give out. He did not remain long enough for a conference of importance.

News from Havana was eagerly sought for by the visitors, by White House attaches and a corps of newspaper men.

# Dead to Be Burled at Havana.

Numerous inquiries are being received at the Navy Department from the friends of the seamen on the Maine, asking whether the bodies of the drowned will be brought to this country for interment. The general reply is that it is not likely the remains will be shipped here. The department, it is said, under ordinary conditions might bring the body of an officer or sailor who dies abroad to a port of the United States, but even after it reaches here there is no money available for transportation overland to a place of burial.

In the present extraordinary according

land to a place of burial.

In the present extraordinary occasion there are unusual reasons for not fetching the dead bodies to the United States. The probability is that a number of the bodies are more or less maimed and unrecognizable, and, besides, it is doubtful whether any merchant steamer could be induced to any merchant steamer could be induced to bring them here. The strongest reason against shipping the bodies, however, is based on sanitary grounds. It is probable, said a naval officer today, that the bodies of the men will be buried in the cemetery at Hayana at the expense of the government.

## CARING FOR THE DEAD.

The Remains Not Likely to Be · Brought Home. The Navy Department has received many

inquiries from the relatives and friends of the men lost on the Maine, asking whether their bodies have been recovered and if they will be brought home for buriai. The general reply is that it is not likely

that the remains of the dead will be brought to this country, even if they are recovered. It is said that the department might under ordinary conditions bring the body of an officer or a sailer who died aboard to a port in the United States, but even then there is no money to pay for their transportation to their homes. In the

appointment of the following-named officers as a board to investigate the cause of the accident to the Maine: Capt. William T. Sampson, commanding the lowa; Capt. French E. Chadwick, commanding the New York, and Lieut. Commander Adolph Marix, Judge advocate.

Acting under instructions from Washington, these officers will proceed immediately to Havana to make their investigation. They will probably make the trip on a man-of-war.

DR. HUBBELL'S VIEWS.

Inventor of High Power Guns Says

most of the dead are more or less mangled, and it is questionable if they could be identified even if recovered. But probably the strongest reason against bringing the bodies to the United States is a samitary one, as it is regarded as dangerous to bring bodies from a fever-infected district like Havana. It is therefore likely that all the bodies recovered will be buried in the cemetery at Havana at the expense of the gavernment. There has also been a strong prejudice on sanitary grounds alone against the removal to another place of the remains of any person who dies in a country where yellow fever, cholera, smallpox or other infectious disease prevails.

Letter From Capt. Sigsbee.

### Letter From Capt. Sigsbee.

The wife of Captain Sigsbee, who resides in this city, has received a cable from her husband simply announcing that he had escaped uninjured in the clothes in which he left his cabin at the time of the explosion; that he was well and very busy. His son-in-law, Ensign Kittelle, who is on duty at the Navy Department, says that the message was sent to reassure his family, and, as Captain Sigsbee naturally is exceed ingly busy, no further private advices are expected from him until he has an opportunity to communicate by letter. Capt. De La Casa's Regrets.

The Spanish authorities still continue to disaster. Acting Secretary Meiklejohn tocay received the following telegram:
"SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., February 17,-

Cordial sympathy Please accept assurance. for terrible calamity Maine. "Capt. C. De LA CASA.

# 'Military Attache, Sparish Legation.

## CHOSEN FOR OFFICE. Presidential Nominations Sent to the

The President today sent to the Senate these nominations: George H. Lyman of Massachusetts, to b

collector of customs, district of Boston and Charlestown, Mass. John T. Williams of North Carolina, to

be consul at Sierre Leone, Africa. To be assistant surgeons marine hospital service: H. B. Parker of Delaware, J. F. Anderson of Virginia, L. L. Lumsden of Virginia, M. M. Foster of Pennsylvania and R. H. Von Ezdorf of the District of

Navy-Capt. H. C. Cochran, to be major, First Lieut. L. Karmany, to be captain, and Second Lieut. W. C. Dawson, to be first lieutenant, all in the marine corps.

# MOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS.

Unusual Interest Manifested in Them Since Maine Disaster. The movements of our warships are ing closely watched at the present time, but nothing was reported at the Navy Department of special significance in connec

tion with the Maine disaster.

The gunboat Machias, which was recently ordered home from the Chinese statien, sailed from Gibraltar yesterday for Madeira on her way to New York, thus disproving the report that she had been ordered to join Admiral Howell's fleet at Lisbon, Portugal. That fleet consists of and they are the only American naval ves-

sels now in European waters. The big armored cruiser cently ordered to cruise in the West In dies, arrived at St. Thomas yesterday. pelief is expressed that she will soon join Admiral Sicard's fleet at Key West. The cruiser Montgomery left Santo Do-mingo yesterday for Key West. She has just concluded visits to Matanzas and Santiago de Cuba.

The torpedo boat Cushing left Key West

vesterday for Toriugas with dispatches for Admiral Sicard.
The gunboat Vicksburg, which is cruis ing in the West Indies, arrived at St. Kitts

### GENERAL CURRENCY BILL. A Subcommittee Appointed to Draft

the Measure. The House banking and currency commit-

tee has finished the hearing accorded the four members of the committee who are authors of currency measures. A subcommittee, consisting of Messrs. James T. Mc Cleary of Minnesota, chairman; George W. Prince of Illinois and John Murray Mitchell of New York, was appointed to draft the general currency measure to be pushed at this session, and will begin its labors. The subcommittee will hold daily sessions till the bill is framed, and it is expected the committee will be able to report to the

### TERRIBLE FIRE DAMP EXPLOSION. Thirty-Seven Bodies Taken Out of a

Prussian Colliery. BOCHUM, Prussia, February 17 .- A terriele explosion of fire damp occurred in the

Hamm early this morning.

Thirty-seven bodies have been recovered.

In addition many miners have been seriously injured. It is believed that fifty persons have perished.

Personal Mention Pension Commissioner Evans is to his home with malaria. Charles H. Maginnis, a special agent of the general land office, has resigned to take effect March 31.

# FROM INTERIOR CAUSE

Surviving Officers of the Maine Discredit the Torpedo Theory.

# MEN SAY IT WAS TORPEDO Officers on the Torpedo Boats Experience Rough Weather.

Jose M. Mann of New York Describes the Disaster.

# WAS ON CITY OF WASHINGTON

Battle Ship Sank Three Minutes After Second Explosion.

KEY WEST, Fia., February 17.-The Associated Press correspondent here has ad an opportunity to question a number of the officers and men who were aboard he warship Maine at the time of the explesion, and it is the opinion of all of them that the explosion was due to some interior cause, and not the result of the explosion of a torpedo on the outside.

Jose M. Mann of New York, a passenger on board the City of Washington of the Ward line, which was moored near the battle ship Maine on Tuesday night at the time of the disaster to the battle ship, in describ ng the catastrophe today, said:

"While we were conversing in the cabin at about twenty minutes past 9 on Tuesday night a loud report startled the compeny. They rushed to the port holes and saw an immense flash shoot up in the air with a terrific report. Debris of all kinds ard large number of bodies were thrown upward. It was at first thought that the Maine was being fired upon, but afterward, as the City of Washington was struck by what turned out to be falling debris, and she careened, it was thought she was being fired upon. A second explosion took place, and following it we heard groans and cries of 'Help!' 'Help!' The boats of Key West today on board the Olivelte. express abhorrence and sympathy at the the City of Washington and those of the Charles A. Smith, who is suffering from a disaster. Acting Secretary Meiklejohn to-Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII were hurried-broken leg and burns about the jaw, is a ly launched and went to the rescue. I went in one of the boats of the City of Washington, and the scenes I witnessed were

heartreading beyond description. "Two of the small boats on board the City of Washington were stove in by debris from the Maine. The battle ship sank

#### utes after the explosion." Steamer Turned Into Hospital.

"The City of Washington was converted into a veritable hospital. Many of the rescued men were brought on board almost nude, and the passengers gave them cloth irg, etc. The officers of the City of Washington did all in their power to make the rescued men comfortable.

Consul General Lee, the civil governor of Havana and Captain General Blanco's chief of staff came on board. General Lee remained with us all night. "The affair caused the utmost excitement

"About half an hour after the explosion

in Havana. Seven bodies were picked up in the harbor yesterday and were identified, though horribly mangled.

"The explosion occurred forward of the midships section of the Maine." Later reports today from the wounded of the Maine show them to be doing well, ex-

cept in the case of Patrick Foley, an apprentice, whose skull is fractured. It is feared Foley will die. The officers from the Maine here are a the hotels and are quartered with army or navy officers and the seamen and others

#### have been provided for at the barracks, or have been sent to the cruiser New York. Enlisted Men Talk Freely.

The men, including the petty officers of the Maine, talk more freely than the commissioned officers, and are almost unanimous in insisting that the explosion was caused by a large torpedo planted before the Maine arrived at Havana.

The naval men here say that would be possible, but it is not likely. The anchorage of the Maine was designated by a buoy and the location of the buoy was fixed by the harbor officials. It is added that any official perfectly posted as to currents and tides might plant a torpedo at night so that, under certain conditions of tide, it would be under the forward part of the Maine as she swung to her moorings. Once planted, it is further stated here, such a terpedo could be exploded from the shore or from a boat at any time fixed upon by those in the secret.

All this, however, is regarded as being unlikely to occur, and as being almost impossible to occur without the collusion of Spanish officials.

The Maine, according to the reports re ceived here, was split open forward, therefore, it is added, it is difficult to see Low such a result could be attained by a porpedo from the outside, and therefore it is pointed out that the explosion seems to do not know what may happen tomorrow. have come from within, aithough the keys | We are prepared for any event. of the magazines were in the hands of Cap- day, let us pars the sword which we have tain Sigsbee.

Temperature in Magazine 59. When the keys of the magazines were deivered to Captain Sigsbee the temperature of the forward magazine was 50, and it is said that no high explosives were stored there, which would seem to make the mystery more dense.

Fears are expressed here that the civers will not be able to throw light on the cause of the disaster, since the forward part of the Maine is practically in a com-Why the main magazine, which was filled with high explosives and easily afferred by concussion, did not go up is another mystery, as had the after magazine exloded no ore on board could possibly have

escaped death. As this dispatch is sent, no news of im portance has been received here from Ha-

If you want to buy, sel' or exchange anything, lease property or rent rooms, want a situation or want help, it will pay you to announce the fact in the advertising columns of The Star. They are closely studied by more than three times as many people as read any other paper.

surgeon of those in hospitals, or who are seriously hurt: Patrick J. Foley, apprentice; probably

Carl Christiansen, first-class fireman,

George Fox, landsman. Robert Hutchinson, landsman, G. J. Dressler, apprentice.

The last four will recover. No others are onfined to bed in the marine or garrison nospitals.

There were some curious escapes from death when the Maine blew up. Three men were doing punishment watch on the port quarterdeck when the explosion occurred. They all escaped unhurt.

KEY WEST, Fia., February 17.-The reports upon the Maine's wounded today are favorable. Every possible care is being bestowed upon them, and both well and injured are feeling better after a night's rest. Now it is the officers and men not connected with the Maine who show signs of exhaustion. Commander Fersyth of the Leval station here has been on duty ever since the first news of the disaster was received here, and the officers and men on the torpedo boats Cushing and Ericsson have been under a great strain, which no one who has not traveled on these "cion-

gated coffins" can appreciate. Fortunately, the threatened norther did not develop, so the trips between here and the Tortugas were not so bad. But, after a few accidents, the discovery will be made that the Florida channel between Key West and Cuba is one of the roughest and mest dangerous passages for small boats in the world. Experienced men say it is werse than the English channel, the gulf THE WORK OF RESCUE stream meeting the tide and wind, and there is always a treacherous sea. These facts account for the frequent delays of the boats in the eighty-mile passages between this port and Havana, and opinion is growing stronger here that torpedo boats are not fit for outside cruising.

A corrected list of those who arrived here on the Olivette last night is being made up by the marine hospital surgeons, the aim being to classify them into "slightly," "painfully" and "seriously" wounded.

## FIRE PRECEDED EXPLOSION.

One of Maine Survivors Awakened by Cry of the Watch. HAVANA, February 16.-(Delayed in

transmission)-There are twenty-nine of the injured men of the Maine quartered at the military hospital of San Ambrosio, and Dr. Manos has given directions that they be cared for in the best ward of the hospital. Many physicians and assistants are in attendance upon them, under the supervision of Dr. Bernardo Mora, voluntarily assisted by Dr. Charles Finlay, and by Sister Mary Walterforce of the Royal

British Nurses' Association. The wounded men have been visited by many ladies. Six of the wounded men, Joseph Kane, Alfred Johnson, Charles Bergman, G. Fox, C. Christiansen and Oscar Anderson, will be able to return to

very sick man, and it is feared he may

# die. The other sufferers are comparatively

well.

Heard Cry of Fire. Thomas Waters, Martin Webster and Thomas Smith are at the military hospital of Alphonzo XII. Webster says he was even with the water in about three min- sleeping below when he was awakened by cries of fire, and shortly afterward there was an explosion. Waters, who was on duty in the engine room, was thrown six feet into the air and fell on an awning of the Maine and thence rolled into the water, from whence he was miraculously saved. Capt. Sigsbee, Lieut. Helman, Paymaster Ray, Surgeon Henneberger, Chaplain Chadwick, Engineer Newell, Cadets Holden and Cluverius, Gunner's Mate Bullock and a

seaman named Anthony are stopping at the Hotel Inglatraria. The evening papers (Wednesday), excepting La Discussion, printed leading editorials and sentimental declarations of sympethy with the Maine survivors. The flags over all the public buildings and ships are

#### half-masted out of respect for the dead. CHANGE THE SWORD HAND.

Madrid Newspaper Extends Sympathy to Spain's Friends. MADRID, February 17 .- The disaster to the United States battle ship Maine is sincerely lamented by the press and public here, and especially by the Spanish officials, whose regret is mingled with apprehensions lest the accident augment American hostility. The queen regent was visibiy affected, and displayed emotion and pleasure at the friendly conduct of the Spanish sailors and authorities at Hayana. Gen. Stewart L. Woodford, the United

policy of President McKinley and the good sense of the majority of Americans will maintain peace." MADRID, February 17 .- El Liberal, commenting today on the loss of the Maine.

States minister, is receiving private as well

as official expressions of sympathy, and

the government is confident that "the able

"Such a catastrophe to humanity claims it defeasible rights and the rancours of politics are silenced. Every great calamity brings home to the two peoples, divided though they be by animosity and rivalry, that they belong to one and the same family. Our noble-hearted nation, seeing the victime of the Maine, forbears to think of its differences with the United States. Tomorrow it will return to the defense of its rights against all. But, for today, it feels only sincere and loyal compassion for the immense misfortune. Happy indeed were the Spaniards who, by saving the lives of the erew of the Maine at the risk of their own, were thus enabled to

the traditions of Spain. In conclusion, El Liberal remarks: "We been forced to keep drawn to the left hand and let us stretch out the right hand, not to these who insult us, but to these who ve:p."

prove the sentiments of all Spaniards and

this frightful disaster we may associate with out expressions of a neere and menuine serrow warm culogy for the crew of the Altonso XII."

ALL ENGLAND EXTENDS SYMPATHY. Newspaners Compliment the President

on His Conservative Course. LONDON, February 17 .- The Prints and Princess of Wales have sent the fillowing message to the United States embassy:

"The Prince and Princess of Wales request the charge d'affaires to convey to the President and to the Secretary of the Navy the expression of their horrer at the terrible acident which has happened to the

Maine, and their profound sympathy with